Ethnic Studies 118
Contemporary Immigration Issues: Globalization and Migration

Professor: Kirstie A. Dorr, kdorr@ucsd.edu
Office Location: Department of Ethnic Studies, SSB 232
Office Hours: Thursdays 12-1pm or by appt.

Course Description

This course examines historical and contemporary connections between the political, economic and geographic dimensions of globalization, and migration: the movement of bodies, culture, and things. Course readings and class discussions will foreground an analysis of how socially constructed categories of difference—particularly race, gender, and sexuality—are mobilized to explain, maintain, and/or contest contemporary globalization and migration processes. Employing a feminist, anti-racist theoretical framework, we will grapple with the following questions: How does US foreign policy—both military and economic—not only contribute to, but in fact shape contemporary (im)migration? How do the social categories of race, gender, and sexuality interact with processes of advanced global capitalism to determine which bodies are deemed ‘undesirable’ migrants and/or expendable subjects? Or, which forms of domestic and foreign interventionism are deemed ‘necessary’ (such as the ‘War on Terror’ and the Wall Street Bailout) or ‘impossible’ (such as protecting public education and other social services)? Though course readings will provide a fundamental historical and theoretical context for our query, we will additionally turn our attention to popular films, news media, and cultural texts to consider how “places” of global mediation—from our homes or our classrooms, to the local supermarket or coffee house—link our everyday lives to the global processes that we will discuss throughout the quarter.

Course Objectives

Our common undertaking—the study of contemporary globalization processes—promises to be a challenging task, and at times may feel formidable at best, or overwhelming at worst. However, please note that our goal in this course will not be to memorize or master a series of clear-cut answers; rather, by engaging in lively debate and learning from fellow colleagues, we aim to hone our ability to ask incisive questions while further developing our skills as writers, readers, and critics.

Required Texts

All course readings can be viewed and downloaded via the our course website: ted.ucsd.edu

Accommodations

I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to all students. If you require any specific accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name or be referred to by a different gender than the one with which you are currently enrolled, I will also be happy to oblige.
Course Requirements

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<th>Assignments</th>
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<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
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<td>Discussion Points</td>
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<td>Midterm Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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1) **Attendance and participation (20%)**: Class participation and punctual attendance are crucial. Students are expected to finish all reading assigned prior to class. Please be prepared to express your own critical questions and critiques of course materials and to participate actively in class discussions. An absence that results from extenuating circumstances will be excused; however, **more than two unexcused absences will affect your final grade**.

2) **Discussion Point (25%)** Each week, students are responsible for the contribution of at least one discussion point that relates to course themes. A discussion point can take the form of a critical question, news article, song or image, etc. These can be submitted at the end of class each week. Please include your name, the appropriate date, and ½-1pg. double-spaced description of how your selection relates to course themes. **Late and/or hand written submissions will not be accepted**.

3) **Short Paper (Midterm Assignment) (25% each)**: Students will be required to a short paper (1200-1500 words, approximately 4-5 pages in length) in response to a theoretical question generated from course readings. Your work will be judged on its clarity and the extent to which it demonstrates a clear understanding of the key themes of the unit and the diverse theories and methods presented by the different readings. The question for the first midterm will be distributed on Tuesday, April 30th and must be submitted electronically to the assignments folder on WebCT by 5pm on **Tuesday May 7th**. **Please note that late papers will not be accepted**.

4) **Final Exam (30%)**: The final exam will consist of a comprehensive theoretical question generated from our survey of course readings, and will be distributed at our final class meeting (Tuesday, June 4th). Students will be expected to craft a response 5-7 pages in length, to be submitted electronically to the assignments folder on WebCT no later than **Tuesday June 11th at 10pm**. **Late exams will not be accepted**.

5) **Grading Policy**: In order to receive a passing grade in the class, students must complete **all** course assignments.
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WEEK ONE—Introduction

Tues. 4/2
Introduction and Course Overview

WEEK TWO—Nation-building: Historicizing Nation and Nationalism

Tues. 4/9

Due: Discussion

WEEK THREE—Restructuring: Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Transnationalism

Tues. 4/16

Due: Discussion

WEEK FOUR—Disposability: The Social Costs of Globalization

Tues. 4/23
Film screening: Global Assembly Line

Due: Discussion

WEEK FIVE—Migrations: Contemporary Routes

Tues. 4/30

Due: Discussion
- Blackwell, Maylei. “Farmworker Women’s Organizing and Gendered
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Grassroots Leadership” CSW Update Newsletter, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, UC Los Angeles, June 2006.

WEEK SIX—Containment: The Warfare State and the Militarization of the Southern Border

Tues. 5/7  
**Film Screening:** *New World Border*  

Midterm Exam Due!

**Due:**

WEEK SEVEN—Vulnerability: Violence in the Borderlands

Tues. 5/14  
**Film screening:** *Senorita Extraviada.*  

Due: Discussion Point 5

**Due:**

WEEK EIGHT—Circulation: Trafficking Bodies and Body Parts

Tues. 5/21  
**Film Screening:** *Made in India*  

Due: Discussion Point 6

**Due:**

WEEK NINE—Imperialism: Global feminisms and the “War on Terror”

Tues. 5/28  
**Film Screening:** *The Beauty Academy of Kabul*  
- **Abu-Lughod, Lila.** “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?” in *American Anthropologist,* Sep 2002; 104, 3; Research Library Core, pg. 783.

Due: Discussion Point 7

**Due:**
- **Abu-Lughod, Lila.** “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?” in *American Anthropologist,* Sep 2002; 104, 3; Research Library Core, pg. 783.
WEEK TEN: *Tourism*: Medical, Sexual, etc.

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